

CHP-7 From A Kingdom to an Empire

I. Define the following [1mark each]

- a) **Dynasty:** When members of the same family become rulers one after another, the family is often called a dynasty.
- b) **Tribute:** Tribute was collected as and when it was possible from people who gave a variety of things, more or less willingly.

II. Answer the following:

1. Write a short note on the society and people of Mauryan empire. [4m]

- There were several cities in the Mauryan empire. These included the capital Pataliputra, Taxila, and Ujjain.
- Merchants, officials, and crafts persons probably lived in these cities
- In other areas there were villages of farmers and herders.
- People in different parts of the empire spoke different languages, ate different kinds of food and wore different kinds of clothes.
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2. Make a list of important cities of Mauryan Empire? (2M)

Pataliputra, Taxila, Ujjain, and Kalinga.

2. What is an empire? How does an empire differ from a kingdom? [3m]

- An empire is a very big kingdom.
- Emperors need more resources than kings because empires are larger than kingdoms and need to be protected by big armies.
- Emperors need a larger number of officials who collect taxes.

3. Describe the provincial administration of Mauryas. [5m]

- The area around Pataliputra was under the direct control of the emperor. Officials were appointed to collect taxes from the people.
- Messengers went to and fro, and spies kept a watch on the officials.
- Emperor supervised them all, with the help of members of the royal family, and senior minister.
- Other areas or provinces ruled from a provincial capital such as Taxila or Ujjain
- There was some amount of control from Pataliputra, and royal princes were often sent as governors, local customs and rules were probably followed.

4. Who annexed Kalinga? What was the impact of Kalinga war on the king? [3m]

- Ashoka fought a war to conquer Kalinga.
- However, he was so horrified when he saw the violence and bloodshed that he decided not to fight any more wars.
- He is the only king in the history of the world who gave up conquest after winning a war.

5. State the principles of Ashoka's dhamma. [5m]

- Respecting one's elders.
- Treating all creatures with compassion.
- Giving gifts to brahmins and monks."
- Each one should respect the other's religion
- Being gentle with slaves and servants.

6. How did Ashoka spread Dhamma? [4m]

- Ashoka appointed officials, known as the dhamma mahamatta.
- They went from place to place teaching people about dhamma.
- Ashoka got his messages inscribed on rocks and pillars, instructing his officials to read his message to those who could not read it themselves.

- Ashoka also sent messengers to spread ideas about dhamma to other lands, such as Syria, Egypt, Greece and Sri Lanka.